

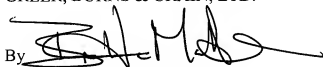
Applicant traverses the requirement for election of species because Applicant believes that the Examiner has failed to provide a *prima facie* case that, if claims 1-12 were prosecuted together, there would be a serious burden imposed upon the Examiner. See M.P.E.P. §803.

To the contrary, it appears as though no serious burden exists because the same, or a very similar, search is required for a proper examination of all of the pending claims in Group I. Claim 1 is generic in that it encompasses "nanocrystalline silicon" and "solid state oxidant." The structure of the nanocrystalline silicon (recited in claims 10-12) and the identity of the solid state oxidant (recited in claims 2-8) are encompassed by claim 1. Moreover, as the Examiner indicated that one of a nitrate salt, perchlorate salt, and fluoride salt should be elected, Applicant notes that all of these solid state oxidants are salts and would likely require little (if any) additional searching if examined together. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a search of all of the species within Group I would mostly likely not pose a serious burden upon the Examiner.

In the event there are additional issues which may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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